Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Tuesday 27 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Wednesday 28 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Monday 26 Feb 2024 at 16:51

Confidence: High for unsettled conditions with low pressure continuing to dominate the weather across the UK, but lower for timing of the arrival and clearance of the various rain bands.

Headline for Tuesday 27 Feb 2024: Morning rain and snow clearing to sunny spells. Southwesterly summit gales.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 27 Feb 2024

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Low Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Sunny intervals	Light snow showers (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
<05%	<05%	60%	90%	90%	30%	30%	10%

Forecast for Tuesday 27 Feb 2024

Weather: A few clear spells at first but cloud thickening through the early hours bringing outbreaks of snow, falling increasingly as rain below about 600m southeast towards the end of the night. Then a cloudy morning with extensive hill fog and outbreaks of occasionally heavy snow turning increasingly to rain on all but the higher fells, where there is a risk of blizzard conditions. The rain and summit snow clear soon after midday with sunny spells and a few wintry showers, falling mainly as snow above about 600m, following, these dying out in the evening with long clear spells developing.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance through the morning becoming around 75% by mid-afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Periods or persistent cloud above about 450-600m, occasionally 750m in the east, through much of the morning becoming more occasional above 600-750m in the afternoon. Away from cloud visibility good falling to several kilometres in rain and showers, and around a kilometre in heavier snow, and near zero in any summit blizzards, becoming very good later.

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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 27 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	18/21 S	26/31 SW	31/39 SW	39/49 SW	38/48 SW	27/35 W	30/38 W	28/35 W	24/31 W
600	13/17 SW	19/26 SW	27/37 SW	31/43 SW	28/39 SW	21/31 W	22/32 W	20/30 W	18/26 W
300	4/12 SW	5/17 SW	11/26 SW	12/31 SW	12/30 SW	10/24 W	9/24 W	8/22 W	7/19 W
Valley	2/10 SW	6/18 SW	12/27 SW	13/30 S	15/33 SW	11/23 W	9/23 W	8/22 W	9/21 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-9	-2/-10	-2/-10	-2/-11	1/-7	1/-6	-0/-8	-0/-8	-1/-8
600	-1/-6	-0/-7	0/-7	0/-7	3/-4	3/-3	2/-4	2/-4	1/-4
300	1/-2	1/-1	2/-2	3/-2	4/1	6/3	4/1	4/1	3/0
Valley	3/1	4/2	5/1	5/1	6/3	8/5	7/4	6/4	6/3
Freezing Level*	400m	600m	600m	700m	1200m	900m	800m	800m	800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Difficult conditions through the morning with extensive hill fog, some heavy rain/snow, gusts around 55mph over ridges and summits, and a significant chill effect.

Forecast for Wednesday 28 Feb 2024

Weather: Mainly dry through the morning with some early brightness but increasing cloud brings outbreaks of occasionally heavy rain, preceded initially by sleet and snow above about 750m, around midday, the rain then continuing through the rest of the day.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 15-20mph backing southerly 25-30mph through afternoon, gusts around 60mph over ridges and summits in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Close to 100% at first then 60% by midday and near zero mid-afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional or periods of cloud above 600-750m developing by midday then periods or persistent above about 450-600m, with patches below, by mid-afternoon. Away from cloud visibility very good falling to several kilometres in rain and perhaps a kilometre in any snow on higher fells.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 1 or 2 Celsius at dawn rising to plus 9 Celsius
At 800m: Around zero rising to plus 4 Celsius
Freezing level: Around 800m rising above the summits by early afternoon.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Monday 26 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:41 Full report: A slowly improving day with hill cloud clearing and windspeeds dropping off in the afternoon. Colder overnight temperatures have frozen any wet snow that thawed yesterday, and more ice and frozen ground was present today above 700m. Rime ice was also beginning to form on many cold windward surfaces above this altitude. The snowline remains at roughly 600m, and although snow cover is generally thin, drifts of around 50cm and deeper are present in sheltered areas, most notably around north and east-facing corrie rims where small cornices have formed in some places. Sunny south-facing slopes have lost the most snow cover, and are often a mixture of snow and exposed ground, whereas shaded north-facing slopes still have more continuous cover. Steep and exposed routes such as the Helvellyn edges are in winter condition although with plenty of exposed rock along the crests. Snow on popular routes (such as these) has been compressed and is now quite icy, requiring care and good judgment. Microspikes are advisable as a minimum. More unsettled conditions are forecast tomorrow with rain, sleet, and snow all possible. Anyone heading out tomorrow should anticipate more snow than is described here. Full winter clothing (warm and waterproof) including hats and gloves, and equipment including a map, compass, and headtorch are all essential. Goggles may also be a sensible addition to your rucksack for navigating and route finding in challenging conditions. For anyone attempting routes over steep and exposed ground, an ice axe and crampons/microspikes are strongly recommended. Temperature: minus 2.3 C, Maximum wind speed 32.2 mph, Wind chill: minus 12.3 C, Average wind speed: 23.8 mph

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